all matters relating to the development of Medicinal Plants.

Expenditure on Rural Health

1469. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance;

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the said limit; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on medicines in rural areas during the last five years and till-date, State-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain separate statistics on per capita amount spent on medicines in rual areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance.

(c) The expenditure on medicines in rural areas is met out of funds provided to the States under Minimum Needs Programmes (MNP) Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme. State-wise list of MNP/ BMS funds allocated is annexed. *[(See* Appendix 180, Annexure No. 22)]

Apart from this the Central Government also provides assistance of Rs. 2000 per Sub-centres for medicines to 97757 Sub-centres, per annum. The assistance for medicines is also provided under various National Programmes and Reproductive & Child Health Programme to all the States. But, separate allocation for rural areas is not made.

Vaccination for Hepatitis-B

1470. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Hepatitis-B still off the vaccination list", appearing in the Statesman dated 23rd June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is proposed to include HBV to the routine